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E- Newsletter

Welcome to Issue #1:

Inside Transportation News is a vehicle for sharing relevant information with transportation and planning professionals and other National Park Service partners.

New Legislation – Joni Gallegos, National Park Service

The “Safe, Accountable, Flexible, and Efficient Transportation Equity Act of 2005: A Legacy for Users” or SAFETEA- LU is the new comprehensive transportation bill with [implications for the NPS](#).

Enhancements Program – Jim Evans, National Park Service

The Park Facility Management Division has released an updated [Guide to Seeking Transportation Enhancement Funds](#).



This is a practical inside guide to developing effective partnerships with state and local governments. The program provides a tremendous opportunity for park units seeking supplemental funds vital to the improvement of park assets.

Park Road Safety – Susan Grosser, National Park Service

NPS is obligated to report traffic accident data in an accurate and timely manner, in accordance with a February 2004 mandate from the Department of Transportation. A recent assessment of traffic safety reporting, however, revealed a significant amount of unreported data. The study showed that an estimated 25 percent of the total number of crashes that occurred in the parks during the 14- year study period was not included in the Servicewide Traffic Accident Reporting System (STARS).

As a result, a concerted effort to retrieve traffic accident data from the parks is underway. Please submit information contained in the 10- 413 form, whether through the Case Incident Reporting System (CIRS), the administrative gateway into STARS, or any other automated system. Should that not be possible, you can submit photocopies of paper reports. A [November 18 Director's memorandum](#) states, “With the new “routine use exception” now in effect, all or most of a MVA report may be made available upon written request by parties designated in that routine use exception” Information can be shared without violating privacy considerations; the memorandum includes links relating to these issues.

Please send your information to: Nancy Arwood, Denver Service Center, 12795 W. Alameda Parkway, P.O.Box 25287, Lakewood, CO, 80225- 0287. She can be reached by phone at: 303/969- 2608. If you have technical problems with the software or with transmitting the data, we can provide assistance. We plan to release a Servicewide traffic management summary report. In the meantime, individual park reports are available by request.

Critter Crossings – Dr. Patricia Cramer, U.S. Geological Survey, Utah Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit

This has become an increasingly hot topic throughout the nation, one that has drawn strong Congressional interest. Despite considerable research on the provision of wildlife crossings, there is a lack of data regarding their effectiveness and what methods are the most effective for a particular species in a particular landscape. Dr. Cramer highlights important research

underway with the Transportation Research Board on [Project 25- 27 Evaluation of the Use and Effectiveness of Wildlife Crossings](#).

You are also urged to sign up with the Wildlife, Fisheries, and Transportation (WFT) Listserv, which provides professionals with the opportunity to post queries and share information about new research, best practices, and policy issues that are improving the way ecological issues are addressed in surface transportation planning and project development. The WFT Listserv is managed by the Center for Transportation and the Environment at North Carolina State University. To subscribe: Send an email to mj2@lists.ncsu.edu. Leave the subject header blank. In the body, type subscribe wftlistserv (and remove any signature/address lines).

Historic Roads – Timothy Davis, National Park Service

AMERICA'S NATIONAL PARK ROADS AND PARKWAYS

Drawings from the Historic American Engineering Record, 2004

This oversize book, 17.5 in. x 11.5 in., showcases 331 interpretive drawings that depict the physical characteristics, design strategies, construction practices, and visitor experiences of roadways in the National Park System. [America's National Park Roads and Parkways](#) is a product of the partnership between the Historic American Engineering Record, a division of NPS, and the Federal Highway Administration's Federal Lands Highway Program. It provides a visual history of design and construction achievements in the context of American engineering and landscape architecture. The book is the winner of the Pendleton Prize, given by the Society for History in the Federal Government.



As we look to planning the future, this book provides an extremely important glance at the past; setting the foundation of the core design values we embrace in the construction of transportation systems to enhance the visitor experience.

The editors: (left to right) Christopher Marston, Timothy Davis and Todd Croteau. Davis wrote the introductory essay.

Additional Reference Available

[Guide to Cultural Landscape Reports- Landscape Line 16: Historic Park Roads](#) promotes park road stewardship through a



combination of research, documentation, and evaluation methods, a summary of pertinent policies and guidelines, and a brief survey of potential treatment considerations. Many parks have public highways running through them that are administered by local, state or federal authorities under cooperative agreements with NPS. These authorities usually have their own management requirements. Though Landscape Line 16 focuses on NPS- designed and maintained tour roads, many of the research strategies and treatments described are applicable to other organizations with similar assets.

National Conference – Transportation Research Board (TRB) – January 2006

The 85th Annual Meeting of the TRB will include [one paper session \(#514\)](#) and a poster session featuring the NPS. The poster session will highlight the work of the Ford Foundation/National Park Foundation Transportation Scholars in the Parks.

Federal, State and local governments looking to plan future transportation improvements may also find [Session #560 regarding road design on public lands](#) helpful in bridging the historical designs of the past with today's efforts to advance context- sensitive transportation solutions. The presentations will demonstrate how historic design and construction practices have practical applications for engineers, landscape architects, and cultural resource specialists in guiding design decisions, interpreting historic sites, and informing contemporary debates on preservation and environmental protection.